

Application No.: 10/090,591

Docket No.: JCLA8596

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action rejected claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by Takano (U.S. 2001/0041072). Applicants have canceled claims 3 and 8 and further amended claims 1, 6, 25, 30, 31 and 33 to improve clarity. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-34 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Summary of Applicant's Invention

The Applicant's invention is directed to an information storage method and the apparatus for performing the method. In the present invention, a server receives a storage request of an image data input by the input device as well as the input device location information. The server receives the image data and stores the image data into storage device. After that, the server transmits the completed information to the input device, wherein the completed information includes the storage location information, the access information for retrieving the image data from the storage device, the advertising information etc.. More specifically, the access information further comprises a password for an authentication process in order to legally access the stored image data from the storage device.

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Discussion of Office Action Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by Takano (U.S. 2001/0041072, hereafter Takano) and asserted that Takano discloses all claimed features of the present invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the reasons set forth below.

It is well established that anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102 requires each and every elements of the rejected claims must be disclosed exactly by a single prior art reference.

The amended independent claims 1, 6, 25, 30, 31 and 33 are allowable for at least the reason that Takano fails to teach or disclose each and every features of the amended independent claims 1, 6, 25, 30, 31 and 33. As amended, claims 1, 6, 25, 30, 31 and 33 recite respectively:

Claim 1. An information storage method, comprising:
receiving digital data input from an input device through a communication line;
storing the received digital data; and
transmitting access information for accessing a storage location of the stored digital data and a print instruction for printing the access information to an external device having a print function through the communication line, wherein the access information includes a password for an authentication process in order to access the stored digital data.

Claim 6. An information storage method, comprising:
receiving digital data input from an input device through a communication line;
storing the received digital data; and
transmitting access information for accessing a storage location of the stored digital data and distinguishing information for identifying the digital data to an external device having a print function through the communication line, wherein the access information includes a password for an authentication process in order to access the stored digital data.

Claim 25. A digital data processing method, comprising
inputting digital data;

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transmitting the input digital data to an external device that stores the digital data through a communication line; and

printing an access information on a print medium, the access information being used for accessing the digital data that is transmitted to and stored in the external device, wherein the access information includes a **password for an authentication process in order to access the stored digital data.**

Claim 30. An information storage apparatus, comprising
a receiving device that receives digital data input from an input device through a communication line;

a storing device that stores the digital data received by the receiving device;
and

a transmitting device that transmits access information for accessing a storage location that stores the digital data and a print instruction of the access information to an external device having a print function through the communication line, wherein the access information includes a **password for an authentication process in order to access the stored digital data.**

Claim 31. An information storage apparatus, comprising:

a receiving device that receives digital data input from an input device through a communication line;

a storing device that stores the received digital data; and

a transmitting device that transmits access information for accessing a storage location of the stored digital data and distinguishing information for identifying the digital data to an external device having a print function through the communication line, wherein the access information includes a **password for an authentication process in order to access the stored digital data.**

Claim 33. A digital data processing apparatus, comprising

an inputting device that inputs digital data;

a transmitting device that transmits the digital data that is input from the inputting device to an external device that stores the digital data through a communication line; and

a printing device that prints access information on a print medium, the access information being used for accessing the digital data that is transmitted to and stored in the external device, wherein the access information includes a **password for an authentication process in order to access the stored digital data.**

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(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that claims 1, 6, 25, 30, 31 and 33 patently define over the cited arts for at least the reason that the cited art fails to disclose at least the features emphasized above.

More specifically, in the present invention, while a storage device stores the digital data, the access information is transmitted to the data input/output device to generate a print. The access information comprises a password issued by an authentication process. While accessing a stored digital data, the user is requested to input the password corresponding to the stored digital data (paragraph [0125]). Thereafter, a step for determining whether the input password is consistent with the issued password obtained by referring to the look-up table. Therefore, the access to the stored digital data is permitted only when the input password is consistent with the issued password (paragraphs [0089], [0120] and [0121]).

However, in the cited art, Takano fails to teach or suggest that the image server possesses the authentic function to issue a "password" for the user to legally access the stored digital image data. Although Takano mentions that "the image server comprises means for giving ID for retrieving digital image data to the digital image data transferred from said image input apparatus and for storing the digital image data", Takano fails to indicate or teach that the ID is used for an authentication purpose. As shown in paragraph [0091] of the cited art, Takano further emphasizes that, after the image server 19 receives the ID number input by the user, the image server 19 retrieves the corresponding digital image data from the transmitted ID number. Apparently, the ID in the cited art is merely a "name", a "label" or a "reference number" for referring to the stored digital image data.

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Therefore, Takano substantially fails to teach each and every feature of claims 1, 6, 25, 30 31 and 33, and therefore, Takano cannot possibly anticipate the claimed invention as claimed in the proposed independent claims 1, 6, 25, 30 31 and 33 in this regard.

Claims 2, 4-5, 7, 9-18, 26-29 and 34, which depend from claims 1, 6, 25, 30 31 and 33 respectively, are also patentable over Takano, at least because of their dependency from an allowable base claim.

In addition, independent claims 19 and 32 are allowable for at least the reason that Takano fails to teach or disclose each and every features of the amended independent claims 19 and 32. As stated, claims 19 and 32 recite respectively:

Claim 19. An information storage method, comprising:
receiving digital data input from an input device through a communication line;
storing the received digital data; and
transmitting access information for accessing a storage location of the stored digital data and **advertising information to an external device having a print function through the communication line.**

Claim 32. An information storage apparatus, comprising:
a receiving device that receives digital data input from an input device through a communication line;
a storing device that stores the received digital data; and
a transmitting device that transmits access information for accessing a storage location of the stored digital data and **advertising information to an external device having a print function through the communication line.**

(Emphasis Added) Applicants submit that the claims patently define over the prior art of record, for at least the reason that the prior arts fail to disclose at least these elements emphasized above.

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More specifically, in the present invention, as shown in Fig. 5 together with Fig. 10, after the storage device stores the digital data, the access information together with the advertising information is transmitted to the external device for being printed (paragraphs [0130][0156][0160]and [0161]).

Nevertheless, Takano fails to teach or suggest that the advertising information can be transmitted to the printing device and can be printed with the retrieved digital image data. People skill in the art would not image to add the advertising information into the transmitted signal to the external device from the storage device by referring to the application provided by Takano.

Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that Takano fails to render claims 19 and 32 being anticipated. Claims 20-24, which depend from claim 19, are also patentable over Takano, at least because of their dependency from an allowable base claim. Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectively requested.

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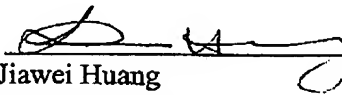
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-34 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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